

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Lebanon/Syria/Israel
SUBJECT Instructors for Palestinian
Refugee Commando Unit
25X1A

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. [REDACTED] in mid-June 1951 a letter from the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, was received through the Beirut office of the Arab Higher Executive for the following-named addressees:

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Ibrahim Awdah 1
Ali Da'ul
Mahmud Safuri 2
Mahmud Shaban
Shaban (fnu), brother of Mahmud Shaban
Hasan Shiblak 3

2. The above-listed persons are all Palestinian refugees, originally from the Galilee area and now living in Lebanon. All had experience in the Jewish-Arab fighting in Palestine; Safuri, in particular, is known as a fighter.
3. In his letter the Mufti instructed the six men to move to Damascus, Syria. He told them that he had made arrangements with Lt. Col. Adib Shishakli, Syrian Army Chief of Staff, for their reception in Damascus. The Mufti stated that these men will be used to train Palestinian refugees - mostly young men from the Galilee area - as commandos who will be employed to harass the Israelis along the Syro-Israeli frontier. 4

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. 'Awdah is probably the Ibrahim 'Awdah mentioned in [REDACTED]

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. Mahmud Safuri may be identical with the Abu-Mahmud Safuri of [REDACTED]

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- 3 See [REDACTED]

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4. [REDACTED] Comment. The efforts of the Mufti to have Palestinian refugees trained in the Syrian Army were reported in [REDACTED]

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Next Review Date: 2003

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